

TERRA

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NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF
LOS ANGELES COUNTY



CATS

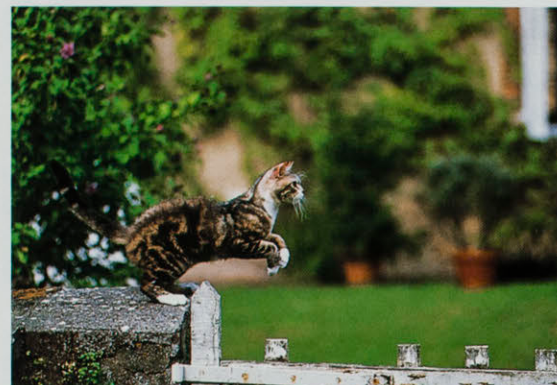
Wild to Mild

THE STEPS IN A FELID'S HUNT are as well known to those of us who keep a pet cat as they are to biologists working on the African savannah: the motions are essentially the same everywhere. The slow advance with head and belly to the ground, eyes intently focussed and unblinking, ears and whiskers facing forward. The hunter's freeze when the prey looks up. The building of tension shown in quivering hind quarters. A final sway from side to side, a small backward pull of the body, and then the pounce—or the burst from cover into a short chase.

For all members of the family Felidae, a mixed diet of plant and animal matter is not an option: they are purely carnivorous. A cat's meat-only meals provide high-protein nutrition that is easily converted into growth and energy through simple digestion. But wild cats—and domestics intent on supplementing their allotments from human owners—must work hard if they are to be quickly fueled by the fat already manufactured by their prey. The classic pursuit described above often ends in failure: lionesses in the optimum-sized pride of six to eight individuals and hunting wildebeest or zebra are successful less than 45 percent of the time, and farm cats catch only one of every four mice they stalk, and fewer than a tenth of the birds that they target.

Yet cats are superbly designed for their trade of hunting other animals for food. Their adaptations for predatory stealth—coats that are colored for camouflage, supple skeletons for explosive agility, and the temperament to calculate patiently and then change course in a flash—give them a grace and beauty that have delighted human observers for centuries. Perhaps their most attractive trait for many people is a very undoglike endurance of “domestication.”

Cats! Wild to Mild, which is open through September 1 at the Exposition Park museum, celebrates people's relationships with cats—our curiosity about their life styles, our affection for those



A FLYING LEAP

Cats are not known for wasting energy in ill-conceived maneuvers. For a jump over a gate, this domestic has moved to the very edge of its platform to minimize the distance to be covered. It then begins its leap by leaning back, allowing its rear leg muscles to produce a powerful thrust for liftoff; in midair, it stretches out to full body length. After touching down on its forepaws, it will pull its hind legs through into the landing.

HIGH AMBITION

This Japanese domestic cat has set its sights on a sea eagle with a 7-foot wingspan. The cat is attempting a feat perfected by the caracal (*Lynx caracal*), an acrobatic species of Asia and Africa that often springs into the air to bat down low-flying birds with its paws.



ICHIKAWA/GAMMA LIAISON



GERARD LACZ/ANIMALS ANIMALS

FEET FIRST (right)

Whether falling from a high-rise window or the kitchen table, cats are legendary for their ability to almost always end up on their feet. The extreme flexibility of their backbones is a definite help in the righting maneuver. As shown in this photograph of the descent of a domestic, the four-point landing is achieved in several distinct phases.

As soon as a cat begins to fall, its eyes and inner ear tell it that it is upside down, and—with its forepaws close to its face—it first snaps the front half of its body around 180 degrees to face the ground. In the next step, nerves along the spinal column get the rest of the body repositioned to match the head. With the tail acting to counteract any overbalance, the cat then arches its back and extends its legs to help cushion the final impact. The action shown in the photograph occurred in less than 3 seconds.

Domestic cats are probably most often lured out of uncovered windows and into the air in attempts to catch a passing bird or insect. Although a house cat has reportedly survived a plunge from the eighteenth floor of a building, broken legs and other injuries are likely to occur in falls of more than 20 feet.

COVER: The 4- to 6-pound sand cat (*Felis margarita*) escapes the daytime heat of its African or Asian dune habitat by resting in a hole dug under a rock or bush; these cubs have been awakened by the photographer. The position of the sand cat's ears, set low on the sides of the head, is thought to help it remain undetected while peering over rocks in search of prey. Photograph by Art Wolfe.

GERARD LACZ/ANIMALS ANIMALS



THE FELINE CANINE

The threatening posture of this cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) shows off the thick canine teeth characteristic of felids.

Within the order Carnivora, cats are most closely related to hyenas, civets, and mongooses. But the felids have lost the long snouts and crushing flat-crowned teeth of the distant ancestor they share with the other carnivores. Instead they have developed short but powerfully muscled jaws, flattened muzzles, and a high, rounded head, all of which give added strength to their killing bites.

Cats' canines function like daggers; these prominent teeth are well equipped with nerves and, in small cats, may actually "feel" the way to the pertinent spot in the neck or throat of the prey. A large empty space behind each lower canine, where premolar teeth are found in other carnivores, ensures that the dagger teeth plunge their full length into the victim's flesh.

Rather than chewing, cats cut their food into swallowable pieces (most of their cheek teeth do not even meet when the mouth is closed, and the jaw is hinged to the skull in a way that makes grinding motions impossible in any case).

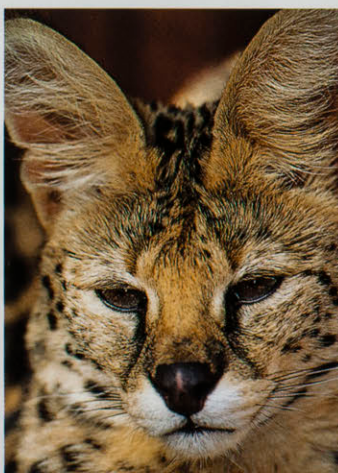
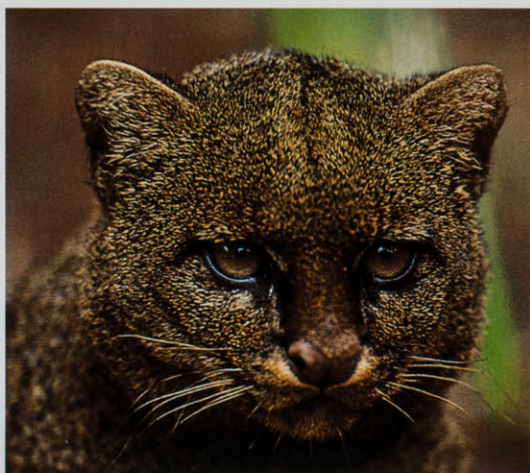


ART WOLFE

EARMARKS

Below, left: The flattened skull of the jaguarundi or "otter cat" (*Herpailurus yagouarundi*) supports wide-set, small round ears. This streamlined head design and a long body (averaging from 12 to 22 pounds) slung low on short legs suit it for its forages in dense underbrush habitats of Mexico and Central and South America.

Below, center: African servals (*Leptailurus serval*), which average 30 to 40 pounds, have been observed sitting for long periods beside the entrances to mole rat burrows, apparently listening to underground movements with their enormous ears and patiently waiting for their prey to emerge.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ART WOLFE

NIGHT VISIONS

A strobe's flash into the pitch-dark adventures of a clouded leopard cub (*Neofelis nebulosa*) has surprised it with pupils fully dilated. At 40 to 60 pounds as an adult, this southeast Asian species is considered medium sized among the cats.

Most cats have eyes adapted for a nocturnal and predatory life style, with very large pupils and lenses. They apparently do not have completely monochromatic sight, and domestics can be coaxed (with great patience and with food as a reward) to discern certain colors. But the difficulties of the color-detection training indicate that, in nature and in night life, colors just aren't very important to a cat.



ART WOLFE

Right: As a mother tiger (*Panthera tigris*) playfully wrestles with her cub, the prominent ear spots of both animals are visible. The purpose of these markings, which are found in a number of wild cat species, is unknown—they may function in a cat's signals to others of its kind, or they may work to confuse an enemy creeping up from the rear.

< Opposite: This black-footed cat (*Felis nigripes*), a native to southern Africa and at 4 pounds among the smallest of the felids, is very angry; one of the signs of its fury is the position of its ears, which are flattened and rotated so that the backs are displayed.

The photographs by Art Wolfe are from *Wild Cats of the World*, by Barbara Sleeper (Crown, New York, 1995).



ART WOLFE

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MUSEUM ON THE MOVE

■ MUSEUM'S WEB SITE HONORED

At the first international "Museums and the Web" conference, held in Los Angeles in March, the Natural History Museum's site on the World Wide Web was voted as exceptional. The more than 400 museum professionals registering for the conference, which was sponsored by the Getty Information Institute, were invited to choose outstanding web sites in five categories: our museum tied with two others in having the best site from a research facility. Jim Angus, our Web Site Manager, is a member of the advisory committee for the annual conference and was present when the award was announced.

Angus founded the museum's site in 1994, and a number of museum staff members have since provided concepts, information, and images for its pages, which are edited by Bill Mertz, the museum's Computer Specialist. The site's address is <http://www.nhm.org>.

■ THEODORE DOWNS, 1919 to 1997

Dr. Theodore "Ted" Downs, a scholar whose fascination with fossil vertebrates led to a life-long career as a curator and administrator at the Natural History Museum, died on March 11 in Los Angeles; he was 77.

Downs obtained his Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1951, and in the following year was sponsored by

the renowned paleontologist George Gaylord Simpson for a National Research Council Fellowship at the California Institute of Technology and the American Museum of Natural History. In August 1952, he began his distinguished tenure at our museum as he accepted a position as Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology. Over the next 42 years, he published more than forty papers, principally on the biology and evolution of late Cenozoic mammals of the western United States and Mexico. The National Science Foundation supported his research on the rich fossil beds of the Anza-Borrego Desert of southern California; these studies provided important new knowledge about evolutionary paleogeography.

In 1961, Downs was appointed Chief Curator of Earth Sciences. After immediately securing funds from the National Science Foundation to build a wing to house the museum's paleontology collections, he then led efforts to develop a science museum in Hancock Park to tell the story of Pleistocene life at Rancho La Brea. The George C. Page Museum of La Brea Discoveries, which opened in 1977, is in part a monument to Ted's vision and persistence.

Although born in Chicago, Downs had lived in Kansas, attending State Teachers College there, and he remained faithful to his "Sunflower State" heritage. World War II interrupted his graduate studies at the University of Kansas: he served as corporal and first lieutenant in the Army Medical Department.

When Downs retired from the museum in 1981, he was honored with the title of Chief Curator Emeritus, and he continued his research on the collections until a few years before his death. He is survived by two children, Deborah C. Legawiec and David R. Downs, and three grandchildren. He is fondly remembered by his many friends among the staff and volunteers of the Natural History Museum.

Dr. Down's family has established a fund to promote general paleontology as well as the particular interests that were central to Ted's research. Contributions may be made to the Theodore Downs Fund in care of the Natural History Museum Foundation.



As of April 1, 1997

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PUTTING ON THE SHOW

The new exhibit *Cats! Wild to Mild*, was created over a 5-year period and involved the very specialized talents of scores of people.

ON ONE OF THE LAST DAYS BEFORE *Cats! Wild to Mild*, opened to the public in March, the Exposition Park museum's Dart Gallery was filled with people working alone or in small groups on the final stages of the show's installation.

As audiovisual expert Ben Gillo adjusted controls for laser disk videos, Paul Komp and Damon Scott of Promotion Production, Inc., which fabricated the exhibit cases, wrestled several large components into place. Technician Chris Wright was busy installing the "clipboard" panels, which focus on people with careers related to felids. Artist Robert Reid touched up a digitally produced mural of one of his renderings and then left the hall carting a puma mount's "rock" base that needed refinements on its trompe l'oeil. Carpenter Idelfonso Alvarez hurried by, pushing a load of acrylic panels to be installed in cases; technician Steve Melendrez secured objects in the "Kitty Care" case; and Phil Ochoa from Los Angeles County's Internal Services Division crawled about gluing down the carpet around case bases and floor wiring outlets.

Jim Olson, Chief of Exhibits, was at work near the hall's entrance, where lighting techniques have been used to superimpose an image of a pre-Columbian warrior dressed in cat skins over the life mount of a snarling jaguar. The trick with this display was to align the eyes and heads of the two components. As the hall resonated with the jaguar's roar and then the man's chants invoking the beast's power, Olson, modelmaker David Cellitti, and technician Jesus Naveira made small adjustments in the mount's height with advice on the visitor's perspective of the illusion given by the exhibit's designer Jane Herwegh and other workers passing by.

Upstairs in the museum's design studios and workrooms, another fifteen people were moving about purposefully. Saws and sanders were whining in shops at opposite ends of the hall as cabinetmaker Jim Kotos and technician Norman Ikeda worked on the object stands and fittings needed for a last few cases. Graphic artist Barbara Allen sat at her computer with a shoulder pressing the telephone to her ear—a lighting problem in one corner of the exhibit had

her working with the electronic service bureau, G P Color, to reformat a collage of images from poster to backlit transparency. Taxidermist Tim Bovard was attaching the victim to the paw of a caracal posed in the act of catching a bird in flight. There seemed to be a label drymounting operation going on at almost every table.

"WHEN WE FIRST CONSIDERED mounting an exhibit on cats, back in 1992," Jim Olson recalled, "we thought that surely another museum must have already tackled such an obvious topic. Cats now outnumber dogs as household pets, and yet our preliminary surveys showed that people have a lot of misconceptions about both domestic and wild felines." But the museum's background research and inquiries through the Internet revealed that a major show on the family Felidae had yet to be produced for display around North America.

"It was a natural for us," said Olson. "We have the collections and skills in taxidermy and diorama design to dramatize the wild cats' life styles for our audience. And the subject suits our educational mission perfectly—the familiarity of the house cat leads right into little-known facts about exotic felines.

"When Blaire Van Valkenburgh [Professor of Vertebrate Morphology at UCLA] agreed to be our guest curator, we gained the specialized scholarly oversight for the project needed to supplement the contributions of our in-house curatorial experts. We knew that we could provide a rich experience for museum visitors on this theme."

ROBIN A. SIMPSON
Head of Publications

In a salute to the Natural History Museum's exhibition design and production team, a number of the people who have worked on Cats! Wild to Mild, were assembled for the portraits shown here and on the following pages. The exhibition is open through September 1. We hope that all of the museum's members will come to see it before it leaves Los Angeles to begin its tour of museums across North America.



Key to the conceptualizing and detailed planning of *Cats! Wild to Mild*, were (counterclockwise from upper left) Charles Fischer, Assistant Chief of Exhibits and a specialist in diorama design; Joan Grasty, who provided an educator's perspective in the preparation of text and labels; Tim Bovard, our taxidermist, who designed and created the live mounts; Blaire Van Valkenburgh, an expert in carnivores and guest curator for the exhibition; and (center) Jane Herwegh, the exhibit's designer and production coordinator.

This is the last show that Herwegh will design as a Natural History Museum employee: in late March, she was honored at a reception as she left her position to move to Washington. During her 19 extremely productive years with the Exhibits Division, she was involved in or responsible for more than sixty hall and special exhibit installations; recent major projects included the design of *Genghis Khan: Treasures from Inner Mongolia*, the Exposition Park Discovery Center, and the Insect Zoo and the redesign of the Exposition Park museum's Pre-Columbian Hall. Her work is noted for innovation, artistic coherence, and a profound respect for the subject matter at hand; her colleagues in Los Angeles will remember her kindness and patience and her wonderful, easy laugh.

Photograph by Steven Burr Williams.



The Cats! Wild to Mild, team, with some of the exhibition's components; photograph by Steven Burr Williams.

From left to right, FRONT ROW: from Exhibits, Dan Davidheiser, Tim Bovard (with billboard and bus sign mockup), Elsa Naveira, Ben Gillo, Jane Herwegh (on the floor with plush toy cats), Laurie Stein, and Betty Herman; and Julie Pfaffinger,

Education; Norman Ikeda, Exhibits; Sumatran tiger; Blaire Van Valkenburgh, guest curator (holding catnip); and Roger Bolanos, Crafts. SECOND ROW: Raul A. Urrutia, Crafts; cougar; Lisa Escovedo, Registrar's Office; Megan Walsh, Education; and Joe Cöcke, Exhibits (with reclining lioness). THIRD ROW, STANDING: Diana McIntyre, Exhibits; Christiana Hills, Marketing (with cat food dish); Idelfonso Alvarez, Crafts; Deirdre Peterson,

Marketing (holding cat scratching post); Jesus Naveira, Exhibits; Karen Himes, Education; Joan Grasty, Education Consultant; Charles Fischer, Exhibits (holding Canadian lynx); David Robert Cellitti, Exhibits (with jaguar warrior model); Dick Meier, Photography; Susan Lafferty, Education; Jim Olson, Exhibits; and Jane Piasecki, representing the Business Office (behind caracal). FOURTH ROW: Jim Angus, Information Technol-

ogy; Chris Wright, Exhibits (holding serval head model); Maren Jones, Registrar's Office; Gina Ward, Media Relations (with press packet); Alfredo Sandoval, representing the Stores; Michael Alvarez, Crafts; Steve Melendrez, Exhibits; Natalia Varanko, Exhibits (behind serval); Tony Newcombe, Crafts; and Barbara Allen, Exhibits. FIFTH ROW: Philippe Lapin, Exhibits, and Christopher Shaw, Page Museum (together holding cat

tongue model); Robert Russell Reid, Exhibits; and Samuel Ramirez, Crafts.

NOT SHOWN: Linda Abraham, Education; Nancy Fox, Education; Jim Gilson, Administration; Karen Goldstein, Administration; Jeri Gutierrez, Crafts; Agnes Hess, representing Development; Robert Janeck, Crafts; Jim Kotos, Exhibits; Cheryl Langley, Special Events; Leonard

Navarro, Administration; James Rodriguez, representing Marriott; Renee Tedesco, Exhibits; and Larry Barnes (Vertebrate Paleontology), Bob Bezy (Herpetology), Margaret Hardin and Chris Coleman (Anthropology), and John Heyning (Mammals), representing Research and Collections.

PROGRAMS FOR MEMBERS AND VISITORS

LECTURES & SPECIAL EVENTS

Ninth Annual Egyptian Symposium

■ MUMMIES

Saturday, July 12, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Jean Delacour Auditorium, Museum of Natural History, Exposition Park

Perhaps the most elaborate known preparation of the dead took place in ancient Egypt. No other culture in the ancient world practiced mummification to such a degree or with the same complex motives. In this symposium, two distinguished experts will describe the development of the early Egyptians' views of the afterlife and their resulting funerary practices; we will also hear of exciting new discoveries coming out of research into mummification techniques.

Dr. Bob Brier, Professor of Philosophy at C.W. Post College in New York, is an expert on ancient mummification. He will discuss the evolution of the practice in Egypt and the rituals associated with it.

Dr. Catharine H. Roehrig, Associate Curator in the Department of Egyptian Art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, will discuss mummified remains from the Valley of the Kings and the work being undertaken to identify Egypt's Royal Mummies.

Cosponsored by the American Research Center in Egypt, Los Angeles Branch. \$40 members, \$50 nonmembers, \$25 students with I.D.

■ CATS! FAMILY DAY

Saturday, May 17, 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Museum of Natural History, Exposition Park

Bring the family to see our exciting new exhibit, *Cats! Wild to Mild*, and enjoy a special day of museum-wide, feline-themed activities. There will be a cat scavenger hunt, special craft projects, storytelling about famous and little-known cats, and a cat care question and answer session. The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Los Angeles, will be on hand with some wonderful pet cats that are up for adoption. Come

early, from 10 a.m. to noon, and celebrate California Archaeology Week with a tour of the museum's Earthmobile! All events free with admission to the museum (which is of course free to members).

California Archaeology Week Event

■ FACT OR FORGERY?

Sunday, May 18, 2 p.m., Times Mirror Conference Room, Museum of Natural History, Exposition Park

The 1939 to 1941 Littleton excavations in the Santa Monica Mountains along the coast of southern California have long been a source of controversy. California archaeologists have argued that some artifacts recovered then are not authentic.

Dr. Lynn Gamble, lecturer of anthropology at UCLA and Cal Poly, Pomona, performed the first systematic study of the Littleton collection in 1996. Close examination of artifacts such as inlaid pipes, effigies, stone beads, and bowls yielded surprising results. Join us as Dr. Gamble shares her conclusions in a slide-illustrated lecture documenting this exciting study. \$5 members, \$7 nonmembers, \$3 students with I.D.

■ THE 11TH ANNUAL INSECT FAIR

Saturday and Sunday, May 17 and 18, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Los Angeles County Arboretum, Arcadia.

The Insect Fair is the largest event of its kind in North America. There will be exhibits of living and preserved insects, demonstrations on how to make an insect collection, and displays about controlling household and garden pests. Insect specimens, natural history books, and arts and crafts will also be sold and exchanged. This year, sixty exhibitors from all over the United States and Europe will be participating in the event.

The Insect Fair is presented by the Ralph M. Parsons Insect Zoo and the Sonoran Arthropod Studies Institute in Tucson. Free with Arboretum admission. For more information please contact Art Evans at 213/763-3558 or <aevans@bcf.usc.edu>.

California Archaeology Week Event

■ EARTHMOBILE OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, May 17, 10 a.m. to noon, Museum of Natural History, Exposition Park

Celebrate California Archaeology Week at the Earthmobile Open House. Each year, the Earthmobile visits approximately 12,000 students in third through sixth grades in the Los Angeles Unified School District. On your tour of this state-of-the-art traveling classroom, you'll learn about the archaeology of southern California by sifting through the materials from a simulated archaeological excavation and examining evidence in the laboratory. Admission to this family event is free.

ADULT CLASSES

■ THE PHARAOH'S FELINES

The History of Cats in Ancient Egypt

Sunday, May 10, 2 to 4 p.m., Times Mirror Conference Room, Museum of Natural History, Exposition Park

As early as 2000 B.C., wild cats were domesticated by the ancient Egyptians, and by the time of the New Kingdom (1540–1069 B.C.) they were a regular feature in tomb paintings. Not only was the cat one of the most favored of animals, it also was revered as a sacred manifestation of the Egyptian goddess Bastet. Tremendous numbers of bronze figures as well as mummified cats attest to the animal's great importance.

Archaeologist **Jay Bisno**, formerly of the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, the Los Angeles Museum of Art, and the Israel Museum in Jerusalem, gives a provocative look at the role that domestic cats played in one of the earliest civilizations. \$15 members, \$20 nonmembers.

■ PREHISTORIC PREDATORS

The Saber-toothed Cat

Saturday, May 24, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Education Classroom, George C. Page Museum

Chris Shaw, Collections Manager for the George C. Page Museum and an expert on



WILD VERSUS MILD

Selective breeding of the domestic cat by people has produced unusual traits, such as the downturned ear of the "Scottish Fold" or the hairlessness of the "Sphynx" kittens shown here. But in general, house cats weigh in at between 10 and 14 pounds (although 30-

pound specimens have been reported) and do not show the diversity of shape seen among domestic dogs: cats are usually bred for aesthetic qualities and not for herding, hunting, or other tasks dictating a specific body type. Photograph by Richard & Nancy Katris/Chanan

Of the thirty-six species of modern wild cats, one (most probably the African wildcat) gave rise to the domestic cat. It was a new food source—the handouts and rodent-infested domains of humans—that helped bring *Felis catus* into being.

Wild feline species each display a basic coat color pattern designed to camouflage the carnivore as it steals through its special habitat. Freed from the need for such subterfuge, the house cat has assumed (and has frequently been bred for) more vivid hues and bold coat patterns.

evidence of injuries and disabilities in fossils of saber-toothed cats, conducts a morning workshop on these fascinating extinct animals. Shaw will explain why we know that saber-tooths weren't striped and how scientists decipher clues to the cats' anatomy and lifestyle from remains retrieved from the famous tar pits. Through visiting the museum's laboratory, viewing the fossil collections, and examining certain specimens, we'll also see how paleontologists can determine behavior in extinct species by studying anatomy and musculature. \$15 members, \$20 nonmembers.

ADULT FIELD TRIPS

■ SPRING IN THE OWENS VALLEY

Friday through Sunday, May 2 to 4

Celebrate spring in the Owens Valley when a colorful sea of wildflowers brighten this barebone country of geologic wonders. And discover the richness of native culture during this special season with Paiute **Richard Stewart**.

Visit the petroglyph sites of ancient peoples and gather clay from nearby deposits for a Friday night pottery-making and folklore session. Spend Saturday exploring the bounties of spring bloom with botanist **Mary DeDecker** and members of the Native Plant Society. Behold fields of Wild Iris, carpets of Desert Dandelion, and hedges of fragrant lilacs set against the spectacular backdrop of the snow-covered Sierra.

Enjoy Indian fry-bread and an evening of local fiddle music on Saturday night. As our weekend comes to an end, we'll be treated to a Sunday morning outdoor concert performed by the **Eastern Sierra Chamber Orchestra** during a traditional Paiute firing of your hand-crafted pottery.

The package includes two nights of lodging at the Winnedumah Hotel in Independence, all meals, and round-trip chartered motor-coach transportation. Tour departs at 8 a.m. on Friday morning and returns by 8 p.m. Sunday evening. \$265 members, \$290 nonmembers. A limited number of single supplements are available at an additional cost of \$60.

■ SOUTH WESTERN COLORADO MINING TOUR

Saturday, September 6, through Saturday, September 13

Experience a nugget of American history as we explore several of Colorado's nineteenth-century towns renowned for their rich mining histories. Along our journey we'll visit a number of abandoned and working mines including the underground Idaho Spring's Phoenix Gold Mine, where miners still push tons of gold and silver ore about in small railroad cars, just as they did 100 years ago.

We'll uncover the history of this bygone era as we listen to stories of the miners, hunters, and settlers of the area. We'll also encounter the legacy of Colorado's mountain railroading history on rides on the

Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad through the San Juan Mountains, and the Leadville, Colorado and Southern Railroad along the Arkansas River to the spectacular Fremont Pass.

Catch a different view of Colorado during a day of rafting through Durango while our river guide shares the history of the region and stories of local tradition. Our trip leader is historian and lecturer **Dr. James Fell**, who has authored such books on mining history as *Mining the Summit: Colorado's Ten Mile District 1860-1960* and *Ores to Metal*.

For a complete itinerary, please phone 213/763-3534. \$1,199 members, \$1,249 nonmembers, based on double occupancy; price includes 7 nights accommodations, some meals, and transportation within Colorado. A limited number of single supplements are available.

An evening hike

■ INTO THE NIGHT

Saturday, May 24, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Naturalist **Peter Rice** leads an evening hike in the Santa Monica Mountains. Explore the varied mountain terrain, sample edible plants, and learn about the different animals that call this area home. After sunset, study the Milky Way and hear stories of the Chumash Indians. The hiking is easy to moderately difficult, with a 400-foot elevation gain. Children ages 10 and older may attend if accompanied by an adult. \$20 members, \$25 nonmembers.

PROGRAMS FOR MEMBERS AND VISITORS CONTINUED

■ EXOTIC FELINE BREEDING COMPOUND

Saturday, June 14, 10:30 a.m. to noon

Dedicated to the preservation of endangered species, the Exotic Feline Breeding Compound houses an average of 50 large cats, including the rare North Chinese Leopard and Siberian Tiger. **Jim Angus**, a biologist who is also the Natural History Museum's Web Site Manager, accompanies our trip to this unique facility to explain the role that genetics and DNA play in preserving endangered species. Specially trained docents will give us a tour of the compound and describe its program for breeding endangered cats. The Exotic Feline Breeding Compound is located in the city of Rosamond (about 1½ hours from Los Angeles); participants provide their own transportation. \$12 members, \$15 nonmembers.

■ THE CHESAPEAKE BAY ECOSYSTEM

Sunday, October 12, through Sunday, October 19

Soak up the brilliant colors of fall foliage as we visit Maryland's Eastern Shore and explore the unique ecosystem of the mighty Chesapeake Bay. Although threatened by encroaching development, this complex environment continues to sustain a rich habitat for native wildlife; the region also allows fascinating glimpses of an earlier America.

Miles of colorful shoreline will unfold as we explore protected wetlands and nature preserves, observing the seasonal migration of shore birds along the Atlantic Flyway. We'll learn more about the natural history of the area in visits to the Horsehead Wetlands Center and the Wye Islands Nature Area. A woodcarving demonstration and a canoeing trip down the Tred Avon River will give us two more views of wildfowl.

The vibrant history of the Chesapeake will come alive at our stops in the colonial ports of St. Michaels—home of the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum—and Chestertown, where we will stroll brick sidewalks and view Georgian-style mansions and elaborate Victorians. We will stay

FAMILY FUNDAYS!

These hands-on family programs are **free** with museum admission for children ages 4 and older. They are held in the Discovery Center of the Museum of Natural History in Exposition Park. No reservations are necessary, but space in some programs is limited, so please arrive early.

■ WHY AM I A CAT? WHY AM I A DOG?

Saturday, May 10, 1:30 p.m.

Explore the differences between cats and dogs with Wildlife on Wheels educator **Michael Fritzen**. After you meet a cat, a dog, and some of their relatives, you'll create a craft item to take home.

■ MAKE YOUR CAT A STAR!

Saturday, June 7, 1:30 p.m.

Meet some famous cats when Friskies' cat trainers, along with the Fancy Feast Cat and the Friskies Cat Team, show us how cats are trained for appearances in movies and commercials.

at restored country and small town inns and indulge in the renowned Tidewater cuisine; our journey ends in Annapolis.

For a complete itinerary, please call 213/763-3534. \$1,723 members, \$1,773 nonmembers, based on double occupancy; price includes 7 nights accommodations, some meals, and transportation within Maryland. A limited number of single supplements are available. Cosponsored with the San Diego Natural History Museum.

■ FOSSIL FACTS

Saturday, June 7, noon to 1:30 p.m., George C. Page Museum. Children ages 8 to 10

Unearth some fascinating facts about long-dead animals with museum educator **Marcus Eriksen**. Dig for fossils, examine your finds, and discover the amazing ways that scientists use bones to learn about the past. \$20 members, \$25 nonmembers.

■ ADVENTURES IN NATURE

July 14 to 18, July 21 to 25, July 28 to August 1, Museum of Natural History, Exposition Park.

Children from ages 3 to 13 learn about nature first hand in exciting participatory sessions with outstanding museum instructors. The week-long courses, which may be taken mornings or afternoons, offer opportunities to visit the curatorial laboratories, work with natural specimens, and make craft items to take home. While children are in class, adults may enjoy free museum programs. Children ages 14 and older are encouraged to apply for a limited number of Junior Volunteer positions, where they can help instructors in classes and aid in lunchtime games and supervision.

Classes run Monday through Friday, mornings (10 a.m. to noon) or afternoons (1 to 3 p.m.). Children who are enrolled in both morning and afternoon classes will be supervised over the lunch break. Program costs are \$70 per week-long class for members, \$80 per week-long class for nonmembers. Members receive additional discounts when enrolling two or more siblings.

An Adventures in Nature brochure was sent to all members at the family level and above at the beginning of April. If you need additional information or if you are

CHILDREN'S & FAMILY PROGRAMS

To ensure the best possible experience for your child, please abide by the age requirements stipulated in our program descriptions.

■ FUN WITH FOSSILS

Saturday, June 7, 10 to 11:30 a.m., George C. Page Museum. Children ages 6 to 7

Come explore the amazing world of fossils. Touch and examine real bones with museum educator **Marcus Eriksen**, who will tell you what it is like to be a paleontologist. \$20 members, \$25 nonmembers.

■ CAR DREAMS

Overnight, Saturday, June 14, to Sunday, June 15, 7 p.m. to 8:30 a.m., Petersen Automotive Museum. Children ages 9 and up with accompanying adult

Get your Petersen learner's permit for "overnight driving" as we back up to the early 1900s and then zoom toward the future of the automobile. We'll roam the byways and back alleys of Los Angeles in the museum's Streetscape exhibitions, make craft items with car motifs, and tell car stories. An evening snack and breakfast are included. \$40 members, \$50 nonmembers.



MUSEUM ON THE MOVE CONTINUED

(continued from page 6)

MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERSHIP SERVICES ON THE MOVE

The welcome mat is out! The Membership Services staff invites all members and visitors to our new headquarters on the first floor of the Exposition Park museum, across from the Explore Store. Please stop by for more information about membership benefits, for lost card replacements, to purchase gift memberships, or simply to share comments or ideas.

SOMETHING DIFFERENT FOR DAD?

Give him year-long access to 300,000 square feet of automotive history and culture, with a gift membership in the Petersen Automotive Museum.

In addition to free admission to all four museums in the Natural History Museum family, Petersen members receive the *Petersen Quarterly*, an illustrated newsletter for car and history buffs, invitations to exclusive events such as Petersen exhibit openings and an annual open house, and a 10 percent discount off purchases in all Natural History Museum stores. A membership in this exciting new museum also provides opportunities for meeting people with similar interests and for enjoying quality time with children or grandchildren.

A Stationwagon membership (\$50/year) admits two adults and four children up to age eighteen. An upgrade to the sporty Convertible level (\$60) strengthens the ties to our museum complex with a subscription to *Terra* and invitations to members'-only events at the Exposition Park museum.

Gift memberships in the Petersen Automotive Museum will be offered at a 30 percent discount from May 24 through June 15. Please call the Petersen Membership Services office at 213/964-6359 for further information.

ANNUAL FUND DONORS

The Natural History Museum is grateful to the many members who generously provided additional support for our programs through 1996 year-end gifts to the Annual Fund. We are pleased to acknowledge the

CATS

in the GALLERY STORE

For the exhibition *Cats! Wild to Mild*, the Gallery Store in the Exposition Park museum is stocked with delightful gifts and educational materials for the cat fancier. We also have feline fundamentals, including ID tags, designer food bowls, and a new type of cat carrier called the Sturdi-Bag. For shop information call 213/763-3420

VISIT OUR OTHER STORES

Dinosaur Shop and Explore Store/Natural History Museum: 213/763-3488

Page Museum of La Brea Discoveries: 213/857-6300

Petersen Automotive Museum: 213/964-6328



following members who gave \$150 or more between November 22, 1996, and February 28, 1997.

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Dinosaur Ball celebrants John and Mimi Harris (left) with Dr. James Powell, museum President and Director, and Joan Wrede, President of the Alliance Board. Mr. Harris, who is President of Friskies PetCare Company, arranged for the Fancy Feast Cat to join in the ball's festivities, which included the gala opening of *Cats! Wild to Mild*. Friskies was a supporter of the 1997 ball (which is the museum's major annual fundraising event) and is also national sponsor of the cats exhibition. Photograph by Larry Reynolds.

THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

The 1997 Dinosaur Ball Committee

thanks those who generously supported this year's Dinosaur Ball.



The exhibit *Cats! Wild to Mild*, is made possible by Friskies PetCare Company and the National Science Foundation, as well as the Smith-Welsh Foundation and Ralphs/Food 4 Less Foundation.

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Special thanks to Hornberg Jaguar, Inc.,
which donated an XK8 Jaguar Convertible for the Silent Auction.

Fancy Feast Cat courtesy of Friskies PetCare Company

The Natural History Museum exists to advance knowledge and to enable people of all ages, backgrounds, and interests to understand and appreciate their natural and cultural heritage. The museum assembles, conserves, interprets, and holds in trust collections of irreplaceable objects from nature and human history. These collections reveal the history of the Earth and the evolution and diversity of life and culture. They sustain programs of research, exhibits, education, and publication.

Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

World Wide Web: <http://www.nhm.org>

TDD numbers, for the hard of hearing:

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Education 213/743-4862

Museum Security 213/743-4863

■ Museum of Natural History, Exposition Park

900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles 90007

General information 213/763-DINO

■ George C. Page Museum of La Brea Discoveries

5801 Wilshire Blvd., Hancock Park, Los Angeles 90036

General information 213/934-PAGE

■ Petersen Automotive Museum

6060 Wilshire Blvd., at Fairfax, Los Angeles 90036

General information 213/930-CARS

■ William S. Hart Museum

24151 San Fernando Road, Hart Park, Newhall 91321

General information 805/254-4584

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Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

Exposition Park, Los Angeles, California 90007

MUSEUM TRAVEL PROGRAM



SOUTH AFRICA

October 6 to 18, 1997

Dr. Arthur Evans, Director of our Insect Zoo, will lead travelers on a hunt for South Africa's most exciting game—both big and small! On our Private Reserve Safari, we'll search for white rhino in Umfolozi and Hlulluwe and hope to see the famous white lions at Timbavati. We'll spot elephant, wildebeest, zebra, giraffe, and impala in Kruger National Park and be tempted to fill our suitcases with fabulous baskets and beadwork in Swaziland. And Dr. Evans will introduce us to the fascinating and beautiful scarab beetles that are the subject of his new book, *An Inordinate Fondness for Beetles*.

■ \$5,275 including airfare from Los Angeles

INDIA

January 1998

The splendors of Rajasthan await us as we explore the royal palaces, fortresses, temples, mountains, lakes, music, paintings, and carvings of this desert kingdom. We'll ride to the top of the Amber Fort on elephant back and visit the Taj Mahal and Fatehpur Sikri, masterpieces of Hindu-Persian architecture.

Keoladeo Ghana National Park will offer us fabulous bird watching, and we'll search for the elusive tigers of Ranthambhor National Park. Our guide will be Raj Singh, born into the Royal Family and Ruling Clan of Bharatpur.

■ Price to be announced

HISTORY OF SCIENCE IN EUROPE

July 14 to August 3, 1997

The philosophy that "to know history you must experience it" has guided the development of this unique tour. Dr. William McComas, professor of Science Education at USC, will lead us as we walk the streets of Galen's Rome and visit Florence, Pisa, and Venice, where science was reawakened during the Renaissance by Galileo. We'll learn of the scientific contributions of Cuvier and Lamarck in Paris, then step back in time to view the cave paintings of southern France. In England, we will tour the homes of Newton and Darwin.

■ \$3,795 including airfare from Los Angeles

KENYA

August 18 to 31, 1997

Wildlife authorities Herb and Olga Clarke will lead this exciting adventure through five of East Africa's best game viewing areas (Herb is well known for his guidebooks and his nature photographs, many of which are on view in our museum). Our safari itinerary includes Nairobi, Aberdare Forest, Samburu Game Reserve, Ol Pejeta Rhino Reserve, and Lake Nakuru. We'll see the Maasai Mara Game Reserve during the annual migration of zebra and wildebeest. An optional Tanzania extension is also available.

■ \$4,598 including airfare from Los Angeles

Photograph of South Africa by Karen Hovanitz

IMAGES OF INDIA

The Museum Travel Program invites you to meet Raj Singh on Thursday, May 22, when he will present a slide-illustrated preview of our India tour in the Exposition Park museum's Times Mirror Conference Center. The program, which will begin at 7:30 p.m., is free, but we ask that you call the Travel Program Office at the number given below to reserve your place as seating is limited.

TO OBTAIN COMPLETE ITINERARIES and a listing of all 1997-1998 Natural History Museum tours, please call Karen Hovanitz, Museum Travel Program Coordinator, at 213/763-3350.